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Denton





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A copy of Denton's "Brief Description of New York", with the imprint cut off by the binder, was sold at auction by Bangs and Co., New York, on March 16th, 1903.

Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan has a copy, with nearly all of the imprint cut off, after "TOTTEN".

V. H. P.



DENTON'S  
NEW YORK

*Of this edition, two hundred  
and fifty copies only have been  
printed, of which this is*

*No.* \_\_\_\_\_

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION  
OF NEW YORK  
FORMERLY CALLED NEW NETHERLANDS  
BY DANIEL DENTON

Reprinted from the original edition of 1670

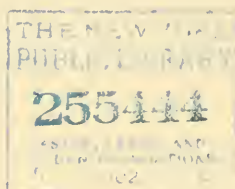
*With a Bibliographical Introduction by*

FELIX NEUMANN

*of the Library of Congress*



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1902



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## INTRODUCTION

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Bibliography is the biography of books.—JOHN FERGUSON, *Some Aspects of Bibliography*.

IN the middle of November, 1900, there was sold at auction in London by Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge, a part of the library of Lord Ashburton \* that was especially rich in scarce and unique books, and the sale attracted, therefore, considerable interest among book-collectors. The highest bid reached — £400, or \$2000 — during the sale, which lasted four days, was for a tract of only twenty-one pages text, i. e., (the title is given abbreviated) *Daniel Denton's Brief Description of New York, formerly called New Netherlands*, London, 1670.

This pamphlet is always considered by connoisseurs, and with good reason, as one of the most sought after Americana, not only as it seems to be the first printed relation of New York in English, but also on account of its excessive rarity.

Denton's Description has been twice reprinted, and, curiously enough, the two reprints

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\* Catalogue of a portion of the valuable library of the Rt. Hon. Lord Ashburton, sold by Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge, Nov. 14-17, 1900.

happened to appear in the same year. The first reprint was issued in No. 1 of the "Proceedings of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania," Philadelphia, March, 1845,\* with a very brief introduction by John Pennington.

The second forms Vol. 1 of "Gowans's Bibliotheca Americana," † published in New York, 1845, with introduction and notes by Gabriel Furman. There is also a third partial reprint in the "Library of American Literature," ‡ edited by E. C. Stedman and E. M. Hutchinson, Vol. 1, pages 419-426.

I have been able to trace, of the original, up to date, the following copies:

A. *Mentioned in Auction and Second-Hand Catalogues —*

1 copy mentioned in Evans's "Auction Catalogue of the Library of George Nassau," London, 1824.\*\*

1 copy mentioned in O. Rich's "Catalogue of

\* Proceedings of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Vol. 1, No. 1, March, 1845. Philadelphia, printed for the Society, 1845.

† Gowans's Bibliotheca Americana, Number 1. New York, William Gowans, 1845.

‡ A Library of American Literature, from the Earliest Settlement to the Present Time, compiled and edited by Edmund Clarence Stedman and Ellen Mackay Hutchinson. 11 volumes. New York, William Evarts Benjamin.

\*\* Catalogue of the Choice, Curious and Extensive Library of the Late George Nassau, Pt. 1, No. 1094. Sold by auction by Mr. Evans, beginning February 16, 1824.



Books Relating Principally to America," London, 1832.\*

1 copy mentioned in Evans's "Auction Catalogue of the Library of Richard Heber," London, 1835. †

1 copy mentioned as recently imported, by Gabriel Furman in the introduction to the reprint of Daniel Denton's Description, New York, 1845.

1 copy mentioned, 1846, in the "Auction Sale Catalogue of the Library of Gabriel Furman." ‡

1 copy mentioned in Henry Stevens's "Historical Nuggets," 1862. \*\*

1 copy mentioned, 1873, as belonging to John F. McCoy, in Sabin's "Dictionary of Books relating to America." ††

1 copy mentioned, 1875, in the "Auction Sale

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\* Catalogue of Books Relating Principally to America, arranged under the years in which they were printed. London, O. Rich, 1832.

† Catalogue of the Library of the late Richard Heber, Pt. 7, No. 1842. Sold by auction by Mr. Evans, May 25, 1835.

‡ Catalogue of an extensive and valuable private library, collected during many years with great labor and expense, consisting of a very choice collection of rare, curious and valuable books. Sold at auction by Royal Gurley & Co., November 30, and the five following days. New York, 1846.

\*\* Henry Stevens. Historical Nuggets. Bibliotheca Americana, or a descriptive account of my collection of rare books relating to America. 2 vols. London, printed by Whittingham & Wilkin, 1862.

†† Dictionary of Books relating to America from its discovery to the present time. By Joseph Sabin. Vol. 5, page 350.

- Catalogue of the Library of William Menzies." \*
- 1 copy mentioned, 1880, in the "Auction Sale Catalogue of the Library of George Brinley." †
- 1 copy mentioned, 1884, in the "Auction Sale Catalogue of the Library of Henry C. Murphy." ‡
- 1 copy mentioned, 1889, in the "Auction Sale Catalogue of Samuel Latham Mitchell Barlow." \*\*
- This copy is the same which Gabriel Furman mentions, 1845, as belonging to Col. Thomas Aspinwall, consul of the United States at London, which came into Mr. Barlow's possession when he bought the entire library of Col. Aspinwall. This last copy was bought by Mr. Brayton Ives, and is therefore identical with the next copy.
- 1 copy mentioned, 1891, in the "Auction Sale Catalogue of the Library of Brayton Ives." ††
- 1 copy mentioned, 1900, in the "Auction Sale Catalogue of the Library of Lord Ashburton."

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\* Catalogue of Books, Manuscripts and Engravings belonging to William Menzies, prepared by Joseph Sabin, New York, 1875.

† Catalogue of the American Library of the late Mr. George Brinley, of Hartford, Conn. 5 parts. Hartford, Press of the Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co., 1878-97.

‡ Catalogue of the Library of the late Hon. Henry Cruse Murphy, of Brooklyn, Long Island, consisting almost wholly of Americana or Books relating to America. George Leavitt & Co., New York, 1884.

\*\* Catalogue of the American Library of the late Samuel Latham Mitchell Barlow, prepared by James Osborne Wright. New York, 1889.

†† Catalogue of the collection of Books and Manuscripts belonging to Mr. Brayton Ives, of New York. Printed at the De Vinne Press, New York, 1891.

1 copy mentioned, 1901, in the "Auction Sale Catalogue of Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge." Salesday, Feb. 25-March 2.\*

And, finally, one copy mentioned in Catalogue No. 60 "Americana," of Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, which is the Aspinwall-Barlow-Ives copy.

B. *In Libraries*—

3 copies in the Library of the British Museum, London.

1 copy in Harvard College Library, Cambridge, Mass.

1 copy in the New York State Library, Albany, N. Y.

1 copy in the Library of Col. Thos. Aspinwall, U. S. Consul at London.

2 copies in the John Carter Brown Library, Providence, R. I.

1 copy in the Library of Edward E. Ayer, Chicago, Ill.

1 copy in the Lenox Library, New York City.

1 copy in the Library of Congress, Washington.

1 copy in Columbia College Library, New York City.

1 copy in the Library of the Long Island Historical Society, Brooklyn, N. Y.

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\* Auction Sale Catalogue of valuable Books and Manuscripts, including selections from the libraries of William Radford, Sir Charles Locock and others, sold by Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge, London, February 25-March 2, 1901.

That is, twenty-four copies in all, making due allowance for those which I have recorded as having changed hands. But this number may be still farther reduced, supposing that one or more of the copies sold at auction or mentioned in sales catalogues found its way to one of the above mentioned libraries.

No exhaustive paper on Denton's pamphlet has yet been written, if I except Gabriel Furman's introduction to Gowans's reprint, who copies literally and without giving the source, the short introductory notice by John Pennington in the reprint of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Considering the growing interest in American bibliography, and also in view of the fact that both reprints — Gowans's, of which only 104 copies were made, and that in the Pennsylvania Historical Society, which was only printed for the members of the Society — are entirely out of print, I think it a timely undertaking to reissue the original, giving the title-page in facsimile.

I shall first touch briefly upon the commercial history of the work, which will illustrate a remarkable change of prices, but keeping pace with the growing knowledge of books and bibliography in the last century.

As already stated, the first copy — as far as I could find — mentioned in any sale catalogue, is that in Evans's "Auction Catalogue of the

Library of George Nassau," London, 1824. This copy was sold, according to a notice in Lowndes's "Bibliographical Manual of English Literature,"\* for 18 shillings.

The second copy for sale is mentioned in O. Rich's "Catalogue of Books Relating to America," London, 1832, and is marked £1 12s.

The third copy is mentioned in Evans's "Auction Catalogue of the Library of Richard Heber," but I was unable to discover at what price it was sold, as even Lowndes overlooked the sale of this copy entirely.

The fourth copy mentioned, 1846, in the "Auction Sale Catalogue of the Library of Gabriel Furman," was sold for \$31. †

The copy mentioned in Stevens's "Historical Nuggets," 1862, was offered for \$52.50.

The copy belonging to Mr. William Menzies, which was sold in 1875 to the Library of Congress, brought \$220, and Joseph Sabin, who prepared the catalogue of the sale, adds: "The compiler of this catalogue has sold but one copy of this work, for which he obtained \$275, and for which the

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\* Lowndes, William Thomas. The Bibliographer's Manual of English Literature. New edition. Vol. 11., page 631. London, Bell & Daldy, 1869.

† William Gowans mentions this copy in his catalogue No. 5. Offering his reprint of 1845, he says: "A copy of the original was lately sold at a public sale in this city for \$31" — with three exclamation points after the price.



present owner has since refused an offer of \$400."

The copy in the library of Henry C. Murphy sold in 1884 for \$80.

The copy in the library of Mr. George Brinley, which was sold in 1880, fetched \$385.

The copy of Mr. Samuel L. M. Barlow, originally belonging to Col. Thos. Aspinwall, came on the market in 1889, and was sold for \$525 to Mr. Brayton Ives. This copy made a small advance in 1891, when Ives's library was sold, realizing \$615.

Then comes the copy of the Ashburton library, sold November, 1900, which realized \$2000, while the copy sold by the same auctioneers on February 26, 1901, only three months later, brought only £75, or \$375.

The copy offered by Dodd, Mead & Co., in their Catalogue No. 60, May, 1901 (formerly owned by Aspinwall-Barlow-Ives), is priced at \$2000, the amount realized by the Ashburton copy.

Such a remarkable rise and decline in price needs an explanation, and this brings me to the bibliographical part of my researches.

The collation and the title in full, with the imprint, is: Title-page, reverse blank—"To the Reader," 2 pages—text, 21 pages. The title, copied from the copy in the Library of Congress, reads as follows:

A | Brief Description | of | New-York: | Formerly  
 Called | New-Netherlands. | With the Places

thereunto Adjoyning. | Together with the |  
Manner of its Scituation, Fertility of the  
Soyle, | Healthfulness of the Climate, and the |  
Commodities thence produced. | Also | Some  
Directions and Advice to such as shall go |  
thither: An Account of what Commodities they  
shall | take with them; The Profit and Pleasure  
that | may accrew to them thereby. | Likewise |  
A Brief Relation of the Customs of the | Indians  
there. | By Daniel Denton. | London, | Printed  
for John Hancock, at the first Shop in Popes-  
Head-Alley in | Cornhil at the three Bibles, and  
William Bradley at the three Bibles | in the  
Minories. 1670.

This title-page agrees exactly with the description given by Sabin, to which Sabin adds the following note: "The title-page being printed on paper larger than the rest of the book, the date is often cut off by the binder."

This is the salient point; and if it can be proved to be founded on facts, will furnish the clue as to why the book is so singularly interesting to bibliographers and to book-collectors.

First let us see how many copies are intact and have the full imprint, and how many have the imprint incomplete and the date cut off.

#### A. COPIES MENTIONED IN AUCTION SALE AND SECOND-HAND CATALOGUES.

Whether the copy in the library of George Nas-

sau, sold by Evans, London, 1824, had the imprint or not, it is impossible to judge from the catalogue; auction sale catalogues at that time not being as carefully compiled as at the present, while even those now issued leave much to be desired. The same may be said of the copy mentioned in O. Rich's "Catalogue Relating Principally to America," 1832.

The copy which belonged to Richard Heber and was sold by Evans, May 30, 1835, is the first copy mentioned as having "the date cut off."

The copy from which Gowans's reprint was taken, New York, 1845, and mentioned as recently imported, had no date, or the reprint would have shown it. This copy is evidently identical with the copy in the auction sale catalogue of the library of Gabriel Furman and needs therefore no explanation.

The copy offered by Henry Stevens in his "Historical Nuggets" lacks imprint and date.

The copy given in Sabin was in the possession of John F. McCoy, and Sabin says, "The only copy we have seen with the date not cut off belongs to John F. McCoy, whose copy is uncut and measures eight by six inches."

The copy in the library of Mr. Menzies, sold 1875 to the Library of Congress, had not the date, as Mr. Sabin, who prepared the catalogue for the auction sale, makes the following note: "In this



copy the date has been restored in most exact facsimile by Mr. Harris of London."

The date and the printer's name are entirely missing on the copy in the library of George Brinley, sold 1880. The compiler of the auction sale catalogue says, "The date and printer's name have, as in most copies, been trimmed off by the binder from the over-large title-page."

The same is the case with the copy belonging to Mr. Henry C. Murphy, sold 1884. The compiler of the auction sale catalogue of this library makes the following remark: "The lower part of the title after the word London, cut off, as is the case with almost all copies."

These two copies and Stevens's copy in his "Historical Nuggets" are the most imperfect ones.

The copy of S. L. M. Barlow, originally belonging, as already stated, to Col. Thos. Aspinwall, and sold in 1889, is identical with the copy in the library of Mr. Brayton Ives, to whom it was sold. This copy was sold again, 1891, and is now offered for sale by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, and is entirely perfect. Mr. Brayton Ives gives in his catalogue the following note: "As a bibliographical rarity this copy is, in one respect, almost unique: It is believed to be the only one in this country which has the printed date. The title-page was printed on such a large scale that the date at the bottom of it was uniformly cut off by

the binder. The date was so rare, that Gowans, the veteran collector and dealer, had not seen a copy with it, and omitted it in his reprint of the book. The present copy is perfect and all that could be desired in every respect. It has very wide margins and is unusually clean throughout."

Lord Ashburton's copy, sold November, 1900, was unbound and had the full imprint with the date. This was sold, according to the notice in the London *Publisher's Circular*, December 8, 1900, to the London bookseller, Henry C. Nattali, who bought it for a customer in the United States, whose name I have not learned.

The copy sold in February, 1901, was also unbound, but "date cut off bottom of title-page." (Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge Catalogue, February, 1901, p. 46.)

#### B. COPIES IN LIBRARIES.

According to the catalogue of the British Museum, the three copies in that institution show no date on the title-page.

The copy of the Harvard College Library, which has been there since October, 1830, according to the information of the assistant librarian, Mr. Tillinghast, has the date cut off, so the last line of the copy reads "Cornhil . . William Bradley at the three Bibles." The date "1670" has been inserted in ink.

The copy which has been in the New York State

Library since 1833 has the last line of the imprint including the date and part of the preceding line cut off. I am indebted for this information to the reference librarian, Mr. J. T. Jennings.

The John Carter Brown Library in Providence has two copies, both of which, according to the printed catalogue prepared by John Russell Bartlett, seem to have the full imprint, one of which is variant. I say "seem to have the full imprint." I will not now enter into particulars regarding these two copies, but will deal with them later.

The copy in the Library of Congress, which was previously owned by Mr. William Menzies, has the last line "in the Minories, 1670" cut off, which was restored in facsimile by Mr. Harris of London.

The copy belonging to Mr. Edward E. Ayer, Chicago, has also the last line "in the Minories, 1670" cut off.

The copy in the Columbia College Library is perfect in every respect. According to Librarian Jas. H. Canfield, it was found in 1897, in a volume of old pamphlets uncatalogued for a number of years.

The copy in the Lenox Library, bought by Mr. Lenox about fifty years ago, has the imprint, but lacks the words "in the Minories, 1670" which have been cut off. I owe this information to Mr. Wilberforce Eames.

The copy in the library of the Long Island Historical Society, Brooklyn, has been there since

1889, and is perfect, as I am kindly informed by the librarian, Miss Emma Toedteberg.

I will now try to solve the question whether the title-page was really printed on a larger scale than was the body of the pamphlet, and if not, how it happened that the imprint was mutilated or the date cut off.

Previous to entering upon the subject, however, I shall show how easily one may be seduced into venturing upon the field of speculation, and on the other hand, how dangerous this is in regard to bibliography.

A very simple and obvious explanation seems to be that there were, perhaps, two editions printed in 1670, and that the printer used the title-page of the first edition for the second edition, which was printed on small size. Some circumstances seem to justify the theory that there were two editions in the same year.

The reader will remember that the Carter Brown Library,\* in Providence, possesses two copies with two different imprints. The description of one copy agrees exactly with that given in Sabin, except that instead of "at the three Bibles in the Minories, 1670" it is given "at the Bible in the Minores, 1670." The compiler of the catalogue,

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\* A Catalogue of Books relating to North and South America in the Library of the late John Carter Brown, of Providence, R. I., with notes by John Russell Bartlett. Providence, part I., 2d edition, 1875; part II., 2d edition, 1882; part III., (1) 1870, (2) 1871.

John Russell Bartlett, adds the following note: "A duplicate copy of this tract in the collection bears the imprint of 'Thomas Hancock at the sign of the Ship in Pope's Head Alley, St. Paul's, 1670.' The text is precisely alike in the two copies."

Now I may say that I think every bibliographer and cataloguer will believe that when I read this bibliographical description in the catalogue of the John Carter Brown Library, I took the correctness of the statement for granted, and did not doubt it at all. But how great was my surprise, when I communicated with Mr. G. P. Winship, the present librarian of the Carter Brown Library, regarding these varying imprints and received the following reply:

"In regard to the imprint 'at the Bible in the Minors, 1670' which I took for a possible inadvertence on the part of the compiler of the catalogue, Mr. Winship says: 'Mr. Bartlett — as it chances — copied the imprint from our small copy correctly, "William Bradley . . . Minors, 1670."' This imprint, however, is not a part of the original leaf. It is probably pen work, but an admirable facsimile of some of the eighteenth century types; indeed, I am by no means sure that it may not have been printed.' In regard to the second varying imprint, he says: 'The varying imprint is modern, so that no reliance can be placed on it.



Both copies have been in the Library some time, fifty years or so.' "

May I now say, that it was, perhaps, not over-hasty in me to base my theory that there were two editions issued in 1670, on the description given in the catalogue of the Carter Brown Library, all the more as Mr. John Russell Bartlett, the compiler of the catalogue, did not give anything more than has already been stated, and that without any explanatory note?

But that not only the second varying imprint is modern, but the first also, I can prove from the following fact. There were two editions printed of the second part of the catalogue of the Carter Brown Library, which deals with books printed from 1601 to 1700: one in 1866 and another in 1882, as many additions to the library had been made meantime.

Now in the first edition, 1866, there is only one copy of Denton catalogued, and of the imprint only the words "John Hancock, 1670," are given, while the second edition of the catalogue, 1882, has the imprint as above stated.

I think this proves that the imprint was added later, that is, between 1866 and 1882, either by direction of John Carter Brown, or of the compiler of the catalogue, John Russell Bartlett.

And what is the moral of the story? It proves that one cannot depend upon even the best cata-

loguer, without seeing the book, or going to the original source of information.

Therefore the theory of a second edition of Denton's Description printed in 1670 cannot be maintained from the printed catalogue of the Carter Brown Library, though another circumstance may perhaps speak for it.

And here I have to clear up another uncertainty. On comparing Gowans's reprint with the original, I found a difference which made me believe that the imprint was done from an edition different from the original in the Library of Congress, and other copies. On the last page of Denton's Description, after the word "Finis," is added a book-advertisement which reads, in the copy of the Library of Congress, as follows: "The Accurate Accomptant or London-Merchant, Containing an Analysis for Instructions and Directions for a Methodical keeping Merchants Accompts, By way of Debiter and Creditor, very useful for all Merchants or others, that desire to learn or teach the Exact Method of keeping Merchants Accompts, by Thomas Brown Accomptant; To be sold by John Hancock, at the first shop in Popes-Head-Alley, at the sign of the Three Bibles in Cornhil, 1670."

This advertisement is literally reprinted in the reissue published by the Historial Society of Pennsylvania, but in Gowans's reprint, after the word "Finis," only the following words are

printed: "This book to be sold by John Hancock, at the first shop in Pope's Head Alley, at the sign of the three Bibles in Cornhil, 1670."

I made exact copies of the whole of the last page of the copy in the Library of Congress, and sent them to each of the different libraries having copies of Denton in the original, inquiring whether the last page of their copies showed any difference. But I was assured that all the copies are exactly like the copy in the Library of Congress, and have the full advertisement at the end of the book.

Therefore it is evident that the lines "This book to be sold . . ." were manufactured in Gowans's reprint, and that no reliance can be placed upon it.

So the second supposition which would support the theory of another edition issued in 1670 and printed on smaller paper vanishes.

But I think it was necessary to go thus into detail, in order to show what possibilities one must take into account, and also to justify myself for saying "how easily one may be seduced into venturing upon the field of speculation, and on the other hand how dangerous this is in regard to bibliography."

I will now discuss the possibility of another edition later than 1670.

In Gowans's reprint, Gabriel Furman refers to



an edition published in 1701. He says: "Mensel (x. 367) gives 'Denton's Description of New York, London, 1701, 4°.'" The authority in question is Meusel (not Mensel which is a misprint) and the book in which this bibliographical entry will be found is Meusel's "Bibliotheca Historica," Vol. x., pt. 2, page 367, 1802.\*

Meusel, of whose bibliographical skill and accuracy such a great bibliographer as Julius Petzholdt† has a very high opinion, adds, after giving the title, the following remark: "This seems to be a very scarce work, of which no one knows anything except the incomplete title."‡ And Gabriel Furman, after mentioning Meusel as authority for an edition of 1701, continues: "The title as given by Meusel, appears in Ebeling's Compendium of the Histories of New York and New Jersey, with an asterisk, \*, indicating that the author has never himself seen the work."

The question now is whether the date of an edition of 1701 can be verified, or found in any

\* Bibliotheca Historica instructa ab. Burcardo Gotthelf Struvio aucta ab. Christi. Gottlieb Budero nunc vero a Joanne Georgio Meuselio ita digesta, amplificata et emendata ut pæne novum Opus videri possit. Vol. i.-xi. a 2 partt. Lipsiæ, Weidmanni hered. et Reich. 1782-1804.

† Petzholdt, Julius. Bibliotheca Bibliographica. Leipzig, Engelmann, 1866. Page 774.

‡ *Liber rarissimus videtur, de quo nullibi quidquam, præter hanc epigraphen mancã, reperire licet.* Meusel, Vol. x., part 2, p. 367.

American bibliography previous to the appearance of Meusel's and Ebeling's works.

First I will give the date of publication of Meusel's "*Bibliotheca Historica*," and then of Ebeling's "*Erdbeschreibung und Geschichte von Amerika*." \* Part 2 of Vol. x. of Meusel, in which Denton's Description is mentioned, appeared in 1802, and Volume 2 of Ebeling's work in which Denton was given, was published in 1794, eight years previous to Meusel's "*Bibliotheca Historica*."

The bibliography in which I find Denton's Description mentioned for the very first time is "*Bibliotheca Americana*," London, 1789.† This catalogue is attributed to A. Homer, but according to Sabin, ‡ its compiler was not Homer but Reid.

In this catalogue which gives the works in chronological order, Denton's Description is not mentioned in 1670, but in 1701, and the entry reads

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\* Christoph Daniel Ebeling's *Erdbeschreibung und Geschichte von Amerika. Die Vereinten Staaten von Nord Amerika.* Vols. 1-7. Hamburg, 1793-1816.

† *Bibliotheca Americana*; or, a chronological Catalogue of the most curious and interesting books, pamphlets, state papers, etc., upon the subject of North and South America from the earliest period to the present, in print and in manuscript, for which research has been made in the British Museum and the most celebrated private libraries, reviews, catalogues, etc., with an Introductory Discourse on the present state of Literature in those countries. London, print. for J. Debrett, 1789, 4°.

‡ Sabin. Dictionary of books, etc. Vol. 2, page 136.

only "Denton. Description of New York, 4°, London."

But no reliance, as regards the date, can be placed on this entry. The catalogue represents a very careless bibliographical work—a fact of which the compiler himself is in some way aware, saying in the preface that he is "sensible of several omissions as well as of other errors . . . but he solicits the indulgence of the reader for them, and hopes the difficulty of the work will afford him an apology for inaccuracies."

The scrupulous Meusel, in mentioning the "Bibliotheca Americana," states that he has not yet seen it, but gives in a concise form the essentials of a review published in the famous *Allgemeine Literaturzeitung*, Jena, 1790,\* which says that the catalogue itself is not accurate enough, its copiousness unnecessary, and even its chronological order compiled *ad libitum*. It gives merely the titles of books, and those by anonymous writers are not fully explained, to which may be added that there are books mentioned in it which have no relation to the subject at all.

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\* *Post brevem explicationem super statu rei litterariæ, maxime in re publica Americana et in terris ab Anglis in America septentrionali obsessis, conspicitur catalogus ipse, nec accurate satis, nec copia necessaria nec ordine commodo elaboratus. Sunt soli librorum tituli, nec hi ab auctore anonymo, ut litteratorem decet, pleni exhibiti. Occurrunt ideo scripta huc non pertinentia. Ita arbitratu censor anonymus in Allg. Litt. Zeitung a 1790. Meusel, Bibliotheca Historica, vol. x., part 2, page 326.*

My personal examination of book titles and dates given in the "Bibliotheca Americana" can only confirm the opinion of the reviewer, and it can therefore be fairly said, that no credibility can be ascribed to the compiler of the "Bibliotheca Americana" — be he Homer or Reid — in regard to an edition of Denton's Description in 1701.

To show that I have used all accessible sources, I must mention two other bibliographical works, which should be consulted in regard to the date, the collation of the pamphlet, and the verification of the imprint.

As above stated, the first American bibliography in which I find mention of Denton's Description is the "Bibliotheca Americana," London, 1789, but this is not the first American bibliography. Irrespective of Leon Pinelo's\* "Epitome de Biblioteca Oriental y Occidental," which need not here be considered, the first American bibliography dealing strictly with books relating to America is "Bibliothecæ Americanæ Primordia," †

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\* Antonio de Leon Pinelo. Epitome de la Biblioteca Oriental y Occidental, Nautica y Geografica. Añadido y enmendado nuevamente, en que se contienen los Escritores de las Indias Orientales y Occidentales y Reinos convecinos, China, Tartaria, Japon, Persia, Armenia, Etiopia y otras partes. Al Rey, Nuestro Señor. Por mamo del Marques de Torrenuva, Madrid en la oficina de Abad. 1737-38.

† Bibliothecæ Americanæ Primordia: An attempt towards laying the foundation of an American Library, in several books, papers and writings, humbly given to the Society for Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, for the Perpetual Use and Benefit of their

London, 1713. This catalogue which ranks much higher than the "Bibliotheca Americana" in bibliographical skill and accuracy, takes no notice whatever of Denton's Description, which shows: first, that Denton's pamphlet was not at all well known, and second, may prove indirectly — if we consider that this catalogue was published in 1713, a comparatively short time after the supposed edition of 1701 — that such an edition (1701) is erroneous.

The second work to which I must refer is the "Term Catalogues" \* of books printed in England, in 1668-1709. In these I find no mention of Denton's pamphlet, either of an edition of 1670 or 1701, but I must add that these catalogues are not supposed to be complete and to contain all the

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Members, their Missionaries, Friends, Correspondents and Others concern'd in the Good Design of Planting and Promoting Christianity within Her Majesty's Colonies and Plantations in the West Indies. By a Member of the Society. (White Kennet, Bishop of Peterborough.)

\* The General Catalogue of Books, printed in England Since the Dreadful Fire of London, MDCLXVI. To the end of Trinity-Term MDCLXXX. Together with the Texts of Single Sermons, With the Authors' Names; Playes Acted at both the Theatres: And an Abstract of the General Bills of Mortality since 1660. With an Account of the Titles of all the books of Law, Navigation, Musick, etc. And a Catalogue of School Books. To which is now added a Catalogue of Latin Books Printed in Foreign Parts and in England since the Year MDCLXX. Collected by R. Clavel. London, print. by Roycroft for Clavell. 1680. And the continuation: A Catalogue of Books continued, Printed and Published at London. 1680-95. Printed for the Booksellers of London, and the Same, 1695-1709.



books published in England during that time.\*

Therefore, in recapitulating my previous researches and considerations, the following facts must be ascertained: first, that an edition of 1670 with two different imprints does not exist, and second, that an edition of 1701 was never published.

Having dealt so far with the bibliographical status of the Denton pamphlet, I come now to the technical part, i.e., the condition of the title-page.

As early as 1835, we find in Evans's "Auction Sale Catalogue of the Library of Richard Heber," in connection with Denton's pamphlet, the laconic remark "date cut off;" but neither John Pennington nor Gabriel Furman in the introductions to their reprints have called attention to the lacking date, or taken any notice at all of the imprint.

Joseph Sabin is the first one who considers the imprint and the date important enough to add to his entry of Denton in his "Bibliotheca Americana," so-called, the following notice, already given above: "The title-page being printed on paper larger than the rest of the book, the date is often cut off by the binder." Since then, 1873, it seems to be a well established fact, indeed an

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\* These catalogues were published in 160 parts, and complete sets are extremely scarce. Therefore the bibliographical world must be greatly pleased to hear that Edward Arber, to whom English bibliographers are already so much indebted, intends to reprint these catalogues. As I understand the first issue is due in 1902.

axiom, with all bibliographers and cataloguers, who have ever dealt with Denton's pamphlet, to say that the title-page was really printed on larger paper than the body of the book. But while the cautious Sabin only asserts "The date is *often* cut off by the binder," Brayton Ives, in the catalogue of his library, states that "The date at the bottom is *uniformly* cut off by the binder" — although he claims that his copy was at that time, 1891, the only one in the United States having the date.

There is some probability that Mr. Sabin's theory is correct, but I have to raise one special objection to it, namely: As far as we know, there is no copy in existence which shows the above-mentioned peculiarity (a larger title-page), except that in the Library of Congress, which cannot be taken into consideration, as the bottom of the title-page is mended and the last line of the imprint "in the Minories, 1670" is added in facsimile by Mr. Harris, of London, who was very prominent in this line of work, having gained a special reputation through his repairing done for the British Museum. Now let us consider two points in favor of Mr. Sabin's theory. I will first mention that the cutting off of the imprint and the date seems not to be without parallel. For instance, in the Brinley Catalogue,\* Part 1, I

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\*Catalogue of the American Library of George Brinley, Pt. 1, No. 627.

find in addition to the entry of "Thomas Parker's letter to his sister" [London, 1649], the following note: "The imprint has been cut from the title-page." The most natural way to find out the real status of the title-page would be to measure the title-pages of the different copies, and compare those which have the imprint and date with those which are incomplete. But this method will not have the desired result in this case, as so many copies have been mended (pieced out in modern paper) and have the date added in facsimile. The copy in the Harvard College Library, and that in the New York State Library, tend most to prove Mr. Sabin's theory, as in the former, the body of the "A" at the top of the title-page, and the date at the bottom have been cut away, and in the latter the last line and part of that preceding have been cut off. The line: "Cornhil at the three Bibles, and William Bradley at the three Bibles," has been cut diagonally, so that the word "Bibles" remains complete, while the first words, "Cornhil at the three," are entirely missing. This shows that the title-page was in these two instances really cut.

The consideration of how it happened that some copies escaped this mutilation, and others\* have only the word "London" left of the imprint (having lost the last three lines entirely), leads me

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\* The Stevens, the Murphy and the Brinley copies.



to advance another theory, which seems to me more probable than that of Mr. Sabin.

In opposition to Mr. Sabin, I think that the title-page was not printed on paper larger than the body of the pamphlet, but that, as the letter-press of the title-page was spread over a much larger space than that of the text, some book-binders, of more or less experience, cut down the copies which came into their hands for binding. This might the more readily have occurred, as in this instance the printer's name and date are given at the end of the pamphlet, as already stated.

I hope that this theory may prove acceptable, but in any case, I must be content if these lines have opened the path for further research, and lessened the difficulties in the way of it.

It remains to give in a few lines the characteristics of Denton's Description. As Denton himself stated in his preface — and our present bibliographical knowledge confirms him in his assertion — his pamphlet is the first description of New York printed in the English language. But his tract is not worthy of note for this reason alone. It is my belief that Denton wrote his pamphlet for the sole purpose of attracting immigration, and inducing his fellow-citizens to settle in that "terrestrial Canaan," as he describes New York. That his description was not unno-

ticed is shown by John Ogilby in his translation — “Augmented with later Observations” — of Arnoldus Montanus’s work on “America,”\* London, 1671, who in the chapter which deals with “New Netherlands, now called New York,” literally reprints in several instances portions of Denton’s work, without, however, mentioning his name, alluding to him only as “a late writer.”

FELIX NEUMANN.

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\* America; being the latest and most Accurate Description of the New World; containing The Original of the Inhabitants and the Remarkable Voyages thither. The Conquest of the Vast Empires of Mexico and Peru, and other Large Provinces and Territories, with the several European Plantations in those Parts. Also Their Cities, Fortresses, Towns, Temples, Mountains and Rivers, Their Habits, Customs, Manners and Religions, Their Plants, Beasts, Birds and Serpents, With an Appendix containing besides several other considerable Additions, a brief Survey of what hath been discover’d of the Unknown South-Land and the Arctick Region. Collected from most Authentick Authors, Augmented with later Observations and Adorn’d with Maps and Sculptures, By John Ogilby, Esq. . . London: printed by the author and are to be had at his House in White Fryers, M.DC.LXXI.

ADDENDUM:—After this book had gone to press, I was kindly informed by Dr. T. L. Bradford, of Philadelphia, of another copy of Denton’s Description, viz., in “Bibliotheca Stanleiana,” Library of Col. Thomas Stanley, sold at auction by R. H. Evans, April 30, 1813. The catalogue, in the possession of Dr. Bradford, is priced in ink, and the copy was sold according to this for eleven shillings.

F. N.

A  
Brief Description  
OF  
NEW-YORK:

Formerly Called  
New-Netherlands.

With the Places thereunto Adjoyning.

Together with the  
Manner of its Scituation, Fertility of the Soyle,  
Healthfulness of the Climate, and the  
Commodities thence produced.

ALSO

Some Directions and Advice to such as shall go  
thither: An Account of what Commodities they shall  
take with them; The Profit and Pleasure that  
may accrew to them thereby.

LIKEWISE

A Brief RELATION of the Customs of the  
Indians there.

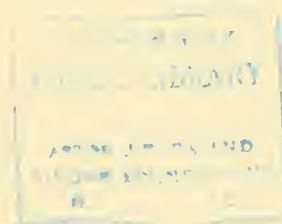
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By DANIEL DENTON.

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LONDON,

Printed for John Henshew at the first Shop in Paper-Head-Alley in  
Cornhill at the three Libes, and William Bradley at the three Bibles  
in the Minories. 1670.



# DENTON'S NEW YORK

LONDON

JOHN HANCOCK AND WILLIAM BRADLEY

1670

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Title-page and text reprinted from a copy of the  
original edition in the  
Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.,  
with kind permission of the librarian,  
Mr. Herbert Putnam.



## TO THE READER.

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READER,—I Have here thorough the Instigation of divers Persons in England, and elsewhere, presented you with a Brief but true Relation of a known unknown part of America. The known part which is either inhabited, or lieth near the Sea, I have described to you, and have writ nothing, but what I have been an eye witness to all or the greatest part of it: Neither can I safely say, was I willing to exceed, but was rather willing the place it self should exceed my Commendation, which I question not but will be owned by those that shall travel thither: For the unknown part, which is either some places lying to the Northward yet undiscovered by any English, or the Bowels of the earth not yet opened, though the Natives tell us of Glittering Stones, Diamonds, or Pearl in the one, and the Dutch hath boasted of Gold and Silver in the other; yet I shall not feed your expectation with any thing of that nature; but leave it till a better discovery shall make way for such a Relation. In the mean time accept of this from him who desireth to deal impartially with every one.

DANIEL DENTON.





A  
BRIEF RELATION  
OF  
NEW YORK,  
WITH THE PLACES THEREUNTO ADJOYNING,  
FORMERLY CALLED  
THE NEW NETHERLANDS, &c.

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THAT Tract of Land formerly called *The New Netherlands*, doth Contain all that Land which lieth in the North-parts of America, betwixt New-England and Mary-land in Virginia, the length of which Northward into the Countrey, as it hath not been fully discovered, so it is not certainly known. The bredth of it is about two hundred miles: The principal Rivers, within this Tract, are Hudsons River, Raritan-River, and Delewer-bay-River. The chief Islands are the Manahatans-Island, Long-Island and Staten-Island.

And first to begin with the Manahatans Islands, so called by the Indians, it lieth within land betwixt the degrees of 41. and 42. of North-latitude, and is about 14 miles long, and two broad. It is bounded with Long-Island on the South, with Staten-Island on the West, on the North with the Main Land: And with Conecticut Colony on the East-side of it; only a part of the Main Land belonging to New York Colony,

where several Towns and Villages are settled, being about thirty miles in bredth, doth intercept the Manahatans Island, and the Colony of Conecticut before mentioned.

New-York is settled upon the West-end of the aforesaid Island, having that small arm of the Sea, which divides it from Long-Island on the South side of it, which runs away Eastward to New-England and is Navigable, though dangerous. For about ten miles from New-York is a place called Hell-Gate, which being a narrow passage, there runneth a violent stream both upon flood and ebb, and in the middle lieth some Islands of Rocks, which the Current sets so violently upon, that it threatens present shipwreck; and upon the flood is a large Whirlpool, which continually sends forth a hideous roaring, enough to affright any stranger from passing further, and to wait for some Charon to conduct him thorough; yet to those that are well acquainted little or no danger; yet a place of great defence against any enemy coming in that way, which a small Fortification would absolutely prevent, and necessitate them to come in at the West end of Long-Island by Sandy Hook where Nutton-Island doth force them within Command of the Fort at New York, which is one of the best Pieces of Defence in the North parts of America.

New York is built most of Brick and Stone, and

covered with red and black Tile, and the Land being high, it gives at a distance a pleasing Aspect to the spectators. The Inhabitants consist most of English and Dutch, and have a considerable Trade with the Indians, for Bevers, Otter, Raccoon skins, with other Furrs; As also for Bear, Deer, and Elke skins; and are supplied with Venison and Fowl in the Winter, and Fish in the Summer by the Indians, which they buy at an easie rate; And having the Countrey round about them, they are continually furnished with all such provisions as is needful for the life of man; not only by the English and Dutch within their own, but likewise by the Adjacent Colonies.

The Commodities vented from thence is Furs and Skins before-mentioned; As likewise Tobacco made within the Colony, as good as is usually made in Mary-land: Also Horses, Beef, Pork, Oyl, Pease, Wheat, and the like.

Long-Island, the West-end of which lies Southward of New-York, runs Eastward above one hundred miles, and is in some places eight, in some twelve, in some fourteen miles broad; it is inhabited from one end to the other. On the West end is four or five Dutch Towns, the rest being all English to the number of twelve, besides Villages and Farm houses. The Island is most of it of a very good soyle, and very natural for all sorts of English Grain; which they sowe and have

very good increase of, besides all other Fruits and Herbs common in England, as also Tobacco, Hemp, Flax, Pumpkies, Melons, &c.

The Fruits natural to the Island are Mulberries, Posimons, Grapes great and small, Huckelberries, Cramberries, Plums of several sorts, Rosberries and Strawberries, of which last is such abundance in June, that the Fields and Woods are died red: Which the Countrey-people perceiving, instantly arm themselves with bottles of Wine, Cream, and Sugar, and in stead of a Coat of Male, every one takes a Female upon his Horse behind him, and so rushing violently into the fields, never leave till they have disrob'd them of their red colours, and turned them into the old habit.

The greatest part of the Island is very full of Timber, as Oaks white and red, Walnut-trees, Chesnut-trees, which yield store of Mast for Swine, and are often therewith sufficiently fatted with Oat-Corn: as also Maples, Cedars, Saxifrage, Beach, Birch, Holly, Hazel, with many sorts more.

The Herbs which the Countrey naturally afford, are Purslain, white Orage, Egrimony, Violets, Penniroyal, Alicampane, besides Saxaparilla very common, with many more. Yea, in May you shall see the Woods and Fields so curiously bedecke with Roses, and an innumerable multitude of delightful Flowers, not only pleasing the eye, but smell, that you may behold Nature contending

with Art, and striving to equal, if not excel many Gardens in England: nay, did we know the vertue of all those Plants and Herbs growing there (which time may more discover) many are of opinion, and the Natives do affirm, that there is no disease common to the Countrey, but may be cured without Materials from other Nations.

There is several Navigable Rivers and Bays, which puts into the North-side of Long-Island, but upon the South-side which joyns to the Sea, it is so fortified with bars of sands and sholes, that it is a sufficient defence against any enemy, yet the South-side is not without Brooks and Riverets, which empty themselves into the Sea; yea, you shall scarce travel a mile, but you shall meet with one of them whose Christal streams run so swift, that they purge themselves of such stinking mud and filth, which the standing or low-paced streams of most brooks and rivers westward of this Colony leave lying, and are by the Suns exhalation dissipated, the Air corrupted, and many Fevers and other distempers occasioned, not incident to this Colony: Neither do the Brooks and Riverets premised, give way to the Frost in Winter, or draught in Summer, but keep their course throughout the year.

These Rivers are very well furnished with Fish, as Bosse, Sheepsheads, Place, Pearch, Trouts, Eels, Turtles and divers others.



The Island is plentifully stored with all sorts of English Cattel, Horses, Hogs, Sheep, Goats, &c. no place in the North of America better, which they can both raise and maintain, by reason of the large and spacious Meadows or Marches wherewith it is furnished, the Island likewise producing excellent English grass, the seed of which was brought out of England, which they sometimes mow twice a year.

For wilde Beasts there is Deer, Bear, Wolves, Foxes, Racoons, Otters, Musquashes and Skunks. Wild Fowl there is great store of, as Turkeys, Heath-Hens, Quailes, Partridges, Pidgeons, Cranes, Geese of several sorts, Brants, Ducks, Widgeon, Teal, and divers others: There is also the red Bird, with divers sorts of singing birds, whose chirping notes salute the ears of Travellers with an harmonious discord, and in every pond and brook green silken Frogs, who warbling forth their untun'd tunes strive to bear a part in this musick.

Towards the middle of Long-Island lyeth a plain sixteen miles long and four broad, upon which plain grows very fine grass, that makes exceeding good Hay, and is very good pasture for sheep or other Cattel; where you shall find neither stick nor stone to hinder the Horse heels, or endanger them in their Races, and once a year the best Horses in the Island are brought hither to try their swiftness, and the swiftest rewarded with a

silver Cup, two being Annually procured for that purpose. There are two or three other small plains of about a mile square, which are no small benefit to those Towns which enjoy them.

Upon the South-side of Long-Island in the Winter, lie store of Whales and Crampasses, which the inhabitants begin with small boats to make a trade Catching to their no small benefit. Also an innumerable multitude of Seals, which make an excellent oyle; they lie all the Winter upon some broken Marshes and Beaches, or bars of sand before-mentioned, and might be easily got were there some skilful men would undertake it.

To say something of the Indians, there is now but few upon the Island, and those few no ways hurtful but rather serviceable to the English, and it is to be admired, how strangely they have decreast by the Hand of God, since the English first settling of those parts; for since my time, where there were six towns, they are reduced to two small Villages, and it hath been generally observed, that where the English come to settle, a Divine Hand makes way for them, by removing or cutting off the Indians either by Wars one with the other, or by some raging mortal Disease.

They live principally by Hunting, Fowling, and Fishing: their Wives being the Husbandmen to till the Land, and plant their corn.

The meat they live most upon is Fish, Fowl,



and Venison; they eat likewise Polecats, Skunks, Raccoon, Possum, Turtles, and the like.

They build small moveable Tents, which they remove two or three times a year, having their principal quarters where they plant their Corn: their Hunting quarters, and their Fishing quarters: Their Recreations are chiefly Foot-ball and Cards, at which they will play away all they have, excepting a Flap to cover their nakedness: They are great lovers of strong drink, yet do not care for drinking, unless they have enough to make themselves drunk; and if there be so many in their Company, that there is not sufficient to make them all drunk, they usually select so many out of their Company, proportionable to the quantity of drink, and the rest must be spectators. And if any one chance to be drunk before he hath finisht his proportion, (which is ordinarily a quart of Brandy, Rum, or Strong-waters) the rest will pour the rest of his part down his throat.

They often kill one another at these drunken Matches, which the friends of the murdered person, do revenge upon the Murderer unless he purchase his life with money, which they sometimes do: Their money is made of a Periwinkle shell of which there is black and white, made much like unto beads, and put upon strings.

For their worship which is diabolical, it is performed usually but once or twice a year, unless

upon some extraordinary occasion, as upon making of War or the like; their usual time is about Michaelmass, when their corn is first ripe, the day being appointed by their chief Priest or pawaw; most of them go a hunting for venison: When they are all congregated, their priest tells them if he want money, there God will accept of no other offering, which the people beleiving, every one gives money according to their ability. The priest takes the money, and putting it into some dishes, sets them upon the top of their low flat-roofed houses, and falls to invoking their God to come and receive it, which with a many loud hallows and outcries, knocking the ground with sticks, and beating themselves, is performed by the priest, and seconded by the people.

After they have thus a while wearied themselves, the priest by his Conjurat[i]on brings in a devil amongst them, in the shape sometimes of a fowl, sometimes of a beast, and sometimes of a man, at which the people being amazed, not daring to stir, he improves the opportunity, steps out, and makes sure of the money, and then returns to lay the spirit, who in the mean time is sometimes gone, and takes some of the Company along with him; but if any English at such times do come amongst them, it puts a period to their proceeding, and they will desire their absence, telling them their God will not come whilst they are there.

In their wars they fight no pitcht fields, but when they have notice of an enemies approach, they endeavor to secure their wives and children upon some Island, or in some thick swamp, and then with their guns and hatchets they way-lay their enemies, some lying behind one, some another, and it is a great fight where seven or eight is slain.

When any Indian dies amongst them, they bury him upright, sitting upon a seat, with his Gun, money, and such goods as he hath with him, that he may be furnished in the other world, which they conceive is Westward, where they shall have great store of Game for Hunting and live easie lives. At his Burial his nearest Relations attend the Hearse with their faces painted black, and do visit the grave once or twice a day, where they send forth sad lamentations so long, till time hath wore the blackness off their faces, and afterwards every year once they view the grave, make a new mourning for him, trimming up the Grave, not suffering of a Grass to grow by it: they fence their graves with a hedge, and cover the tops with Mats, to shelter them from the rain.

Any Indian being dead, his name dies with him, no person daring ever after to mention his Name, it being not only a breach of their Law, but an abuse to his friends and relations present, as if it were done on purpose to renew their grief: And

any other person whatsoever that is named after that name doth incontinently change his name, and takes a new one, their names are not proper set names as amongst Christians, but every one invents a name to himself, which he likes best. Some calling themselves Rattlesnake, Skunk, Bucks-horn, or the like: And if a person die, that his name is some word which is used in speech, they likewise change that word, and invent some new one, which makes a great change and alteration in their language.

When any person is sick, after some means used by his friends, every one pretending skill in Physick; that proving ineffectual, they send for a Pawaw or Priest, who sitting down by the sick person, without the least enquiry after the distemper, waits for a gift, which he proportions his work accordingly to: that being received, he first begins with a low voice to call upon his God, calling sometimes upon one, sometimes on another, raising his voice higher and higher, beating of his naked breasts and sides, till the sweat runneth down, and his breath is almost gone, then that little which is remaining, he evaporates upon the face of the sick person three or four times together, and so takes his leave.

Their Marriages are performed without any Ceremony, the Match being first made by money. The sum being agreed upon and given to the

woman, it makes a consummation of their Marriage, if I may so call it: After that, he keeps her during his pleasure, and upon the least dislike turns her away and takes another: It is no offence for their married women to lie with another man, provided she acquaint her husband, or some of her nearest Relations with it, but if not, it is accounted such a fault that they sometimes punish it with death: An Indian may have two wives or more if he please; but it is not so much in use as it was since the English came amongst them; they being ready in some measure to imitate the English in things both good and bad: any Maid before she is married doth lie with whom she please for money, without any scandal, or the least aspersion to be cast upon her, it being so customary, and their laws tolerating of it. They are extraordinary charitable one to another, one having nothing to spare, but he freely imparts it to his friends, and whatsoever they get by gaming or any other way, they share one to another, leaving themselves commonly the least share.

At their Cantica's or dancing Matches, where all persons that come are freely entertain'd, it being a Festival time: Their custom is when they dance, every one but the Dancers to have a short stick in their hand, and to knock the ground and sing altogether, whilst they that dance sometimes



act warlike postures, and then they come in painted for War with their faces black and red, or some all black, some all red, with some streaks of white under their eyes, and so jump and leap up and down without any order, uttering many expressions of their intended valour. For other Dances they only shew what Antick tricks their ignorance will lead them to, wringing of their bodies and faces after a strange manner, sometimes jumping into the fire, sometimes catching up a Fire-brand, and biting off a live coal, with many such tricks, that will affright, if not please an English man to look upon them, resembling rather a company of infernal Furies than men. When their King or Sachem sits in Council, he hath a Company of armed men to guard his Person, great respect being shewen him by the People, which is principally manifested by their silence; After he hath declared the cause of their convention, he demands their opinion, ordering who shall begin: The person ordered to speak, after he hath declared his minde, tells them he hath done; no man ever interrupting any person in his speech, nor offering to speak, though he make never so many or long stops, till he says he hath no more to say: the Council having all declar'd their opinions, the King after some pause gives the definitive sentence, which is commonly seconded with a shout from the people, every one

seeming to applaud, and manifest their Assent to what is determined: If any person be condemned to die, which is seldom, unless for Murder or Incest, the King himself goes out in person (for you must understand they have no prisons, and the guilty person flies into the Woods) where they go inquest of him, and having found him, the King shoots first, though at never such a distance, and then happy is the man can shoot him down, and cut off his *Long*, which they commonly wear, who for his pains is made some Captain, or other military Officer.

Their Cloathing is a yard and an half of broad Cloth, which is made for the Indian Trade, which they hang upon their shoulders; and half a yard of the same cloth, which being put betwixt their legs, and brought up before and behinde, and tied with a Girdle about their middle, hangs with a flap on each side: They wear no Hats, but commonly wear about their Heads a Snake's skin, or a Belt of their money, or a kind of a Ruff made with Deers hair, and died of a scarlet colour, which they esteem very rich.

They grease their bodies and hair very often, and paint their faces with several colours, as black, white, red, yellow, blew, &c. which they take great pride in, every one being painted in a several manner: Thus much for the Customs of the Indians.



Within two Leagues of New York lieth Staten-Island, it bears from New York West something Southerly: It is about twenty-miles long, and four or five broad, it is most of it very good Land, full of Timber, and produceth all such commodities as Long Island doth besides Tin and store of Iron Oar, and the Calamine stone is said likewise to be found there: There is but one Town upon it consisting of English and French, but is capable of entertaining more inhabitants; betwixt this and Long Island is a large Bay, and is the coming in for all ships and vessels out of the Sea: On the North-side of this Island After-skull River puts into the main Land on the West-side, whereof is two or three Towns, but on the East-side but one. There is very great Marshes or Meadows on both sides of it, excellent good Land, and good convenience for the settling of several Towns; there grows black Walnut and Locust, as their doth in Virginia, with mighty tall straight Timber, as good as any in the North of America: It produceth any Commoditie Long-Island doth.

Hudsons River runs by New York Northward into the Countrey, toward the Head of which is seated New Albany, a place of great Trade with the Indians, betwixt which and New-York, being above one hundred miles, is as good Cornland as the World affords, enough to entertain Hundreds of Families, which in the time of

the Dutch-Government of those parts could not be settled: For the Indians, excepting one place, called the Sopers, which was kept by a Garrison, but since the reducement of those parts under His Majesties obedience and a Patent granted to his Royal Highness the Duke of York, which is about six years; since by the care and diligence of the Honourable Coll. Nicholls sent thither Deputy to His Highness, such a League of Peace was made, and Friendship concluded betwixt that Colony and the Indians, that they have not resisted or disturbed any Christians there, in the settling or peaceable possessing of any Lands with that Government, but every man hath sate under his own Vine, and hath peaceably reapt and enjoyed the fruits of their own labours, which God continue.

Westward of After-Kull River before-mentioned, about 18 or 20 miles runs in Raritan-River Northward into the Countrey, some score of miles, both sides of which River is adorn'd with spacious Meadows, enough to maintain thousands of Cattel, the Wood-land is likewise very good for corn, and stor'd with wilde Beasts, as Deer, and Elks, and an innumerable multitude of Fowl, as in other parts of the Countrey: This River is thought very capable for the erecting of several Towns and Villages on each side of it, no place in the North of America having better convenience for the maintaining of all sorts of Cattel for Winter and

Summer food: upon this River is no town settled, but one at the mouth of it. Next this River Westward is a place called Newasons, where is two or three Towns and Villages settled upon the Seaside, but none betwixt that and Delewer Bay, which is about sixty miles, all which is a rich Champain Countrey, free from stones, and indifferent level; store of excellent good timber, and very well watered, having brooks or rivers ordinarily, one or more in every miles travel: The Countrey is full of Deer, Elks, Bear, and other Creatures, as in other parts of the Countrey, where you shall meet with no inhabitant in this journey, but a few Indians, where there is stately Oaks, whose broad-branched-tops serve for no other use, but to keep off the Suns heat from the wilde beasts of the Wilderness, where is grass as high as a mans middle, that serves for no other end except to maintain the Elks and Deer, who never devour a hundredth part of it, then to be burnt every Spring to make way for new. How many poor people in the world would think themselves happy, had they an Acre or two of Land, whilst here is hundreds, nay thousands of Acres, that would invite inhabitants.

Delewerbay the mouth of the River, lyeth about the mid-way betwixt New-York and the Capes of Virginia: It is a very pleasant River and Countrey, but very few inhabitants, and them

being mostly Swedes, Dutch and Finns: about sixty miles up the River is the principal Town called New-Castle, which is about 40 miles from Mary-land, and very good way to travel, either with horse or foot, the people are settled all along the west side sixty miles above New-Castle; the land is good for all sorts of English grain and wanteth nothing but a good people to populate it, it being capable of entertaining many hundred families.

Some may admire, that these great and rich Tracts of land, lying so adjoyning to New-England and Virginia, should be no better inhabited, and that the richness of the soyle, the healthfulness of the Climate, and the like, should be no better a motive to induce people from both places to populate it.

To which I answer, that whilst it was under the Dutch Government, which hath been till within these six years; there was little encouragement for any English, both in respect of their safety from the Indians, the Dutch being almost always in danger of them; and their Bever-trade not admitting of a War, which would have been destructive to their trade, which was the main thing prosecuted by the Dutch. And secondly, the Dutch gave such bad Titles to Lands, together with their exacting of the Tenths of all which men produced off their Land, that did much hinder

the populating of it; together with that general dislike the English have of living under another Government; but since the reducement of it there is several Towns of a considerable greatness begun and settled by people out of New-England, and every day more and more come to view and settle.

To give some satisfaction to people that shall be desirous to transport themselves thither, (the Countrey being capable of entertaining many thousands,) how and after what manner people live, and how Land may be procured, &c. I shall answer, that the usual way, is for a Company of people to joyn together, either enough to make a Town, or a lesser number; these go with the consent of the Governor, and view a Tract of Land, there being choice enough, and finding a place convenient for a Town, they return to the Governor, who upon their desire admits them into the Colony, and gives them a Grant or Patent for the said Land, for themselves and Associates. These persons being thus qualified, settle the place, and take in what inhabitants to themselves they shall see cause to admit of, till their Town be full; these Associates thus taken in have equal privileges with themselves, and they make a division of the Land suitable to every mans occasions, no man being debarr'd of such quantities as he hath occasion for, the rest they let lie in common till they have occasion for a new division, never dividing



their Pasture-land at all, which lies in common to the whole Town. The best Commodities for any to carry with them is Clothing, the Countrey being full of all sorts of Cattel, which they may furnish themselves withal at an easie rate, for any sorts of English Goods, as likewise Instruments for Husbandry and Building, with Nails, Hinges, Glass, and the like; For the manner how they get a livelihood, it is principally by Corn and Cattel, which will there fetch them any Commodities; likewise they sowe store of Flax, which they make every one Cloth of for their own wearing, as also woollen Cloth, and Linsey-woolsey, and had they more Tradesmen amongst them, they would in a little time live without the help of any other Countrey for their Clothing; For Tradesmen there is none but live happily there, as Carpenters, Blacksmiths, Masons, Tailors, Weavers, Shoomakers, Tanners, Brickmakers, and so any other Trade; them that have no Trade betake themselves to Husbandry, get Land of their own, and live exceeding well.

Thus have I briefly given you a Relation of New-York, with the places thereunto adjoyning; In which, if I have err'd, it is principally in not giving it its due commendation; for besides those earthly blessings where it is stor'd, Heaven hath not been wanting to open his Treasure, in sending down seasonable showres upon the Earth, blessing

it with a sweet and pleasant Air, and a Continuation of such Influences as tend to the Health both of Man and Beast: and the Climate hath such an affinity with that of England, that it breeds ordinarily no alteration to those which remove thither; that the name of seasoning, which is common to some other Countreys hath never there been known; That I may say, and say truly, that if there be any terrestrial happiness to be had by people of all ranks, especially of an inferior rank, it must certainly be here: here any one may furnish himself with land, and live rent-free, yea, with such a quantity of Land, that he may weary himself with walking over his fields of Corn, and all sorts of Grain: and let his stock of Cattel amount to some hundreds, he needs not fear their want of pasture in the Summer, or Fodder in the Winter, the Woods affording sufficient supply. For the Summer-season, where you have grass as high as a mans knees, nay, as high as his waste, interlaced with Pea-vines and other weeds that Cattel much delight in, as much as a man can press thorough; and these woods also every mile or half-mile are furnished with fresh ponds, brooks or rivers, where all sorts of Cattel, during the heat of the day, do quench their thirst and cool themselves; these brooks and rivers being invironed of each side with several sorts of trees and Grape-vines, the Vines, Arbor-like, inter-



changing places and crossing these rivers, does shade and shelter them from the scorching beams of Sols fiery influence: Here those which Fortune hath frown'd upon in England, to deny them an inheritance amongst their Brethren, or such as by their utmost labors can scarcely procure a living, I say such may procure here inheritances of lands and possessions, stock themselves with all sorts of Cattel, enjoy the benefit of them whilst they live, and leave them to the benefit of their children when they die: Here you need not trouble the Shambles for meat, nor Bakers and Brewers for Beer and Bread, nor run to a Linnen-Draper for a supply, every one making their own Linnen, and a great part of their woollen-cloth for their ordinary wearing: And how prodigal, If I may so say, hath Nature been to furnish the Countrey with all sorts of wilde Beasts and Fowle, which every one hath an interest in, and may hunt at his pleasure; where besides the pleasure in hunting, he may furnish his house with excellent fat Venison, Turkeys, Geese, Heath-Hens, Cranes, Swans, Ducks, Pidgeons, and the like: and wearied with that, he may go a Fishing, where the Rivers are so furnished, that he may supply himself with Fish before he can leave off the Recreation: Where you may travel by Land upon the same Continent hundreds of miles, and passe thorough Towns and Villages, and never hear the least

complaint for want, nor hear any ask you for a farthing: there you may lodge in the fields and woods, travel from one end of the Countrey to another, with as much security as if you were lockt within your own Chamber; And if you chance to meet with an Indian-Town, they shall give you the best entertainment they have, and upon your desire, direct you on your way: But that which adds happiness to all the rest, is the Healthfulness of the place, where many people in twenty years time never know what sickness is: where they look upon it as a great mortality if two or three die out of a town in a years time; where besides the sweetness of the Air, the Countrey it self sends forth such a fragrant smell, that it may be perceived at Sea before they can make the Land: where no evil fog or vapour doth no sooner appear, but a North-west or West-erly winde doth immediately dissolve it, and drive it away: What shall I say more? you shall scarce see a house, but the South side is begirt with Hives of Bees, which increase after an incredible manner: That I must needs say, that if there be any terrestrial Canaan, 'tis surely here, where the Land floweth with milk and honey. The inhabitants are blest with Peace and plenty, blessed in their Countrey, blessed in their Fields, blessed in the Fruit of their bodies, in the fruit of their grounds, in the increase of their Cattel,

Horses and Sheep, blessed in their Basket, and in their Store; In a word, blessed in whatsoever they take in hand, or go about, the Earth yielding plentiful increase to all their painful labours,

Were it not to avoid prolixity I could say a great deal more, and yet say too little, how free are those parts of the world from that pride and oppression, with their miserable effects, which many, nay almost all parts of the world are troubled, with being ignorant of that pomp and bravery which aspiring Humours are servants to, and striving after almost every where: where a Waggon or Cart gives as good content as a Coach; and a piece of their home-made Cloth, better than the finest Lawns or richest Silks: and though their low-roofed houses may seem to shut their doors against pride and luxury, yet how do they stand wide open to let charity in and out, either to assist each other, or relieve a stranger, and the distance of place from other Nations, doth secure them from the envious frowns of ill-affected Neighbours, and the troubles which usually arise thence.

Now to conclude, its possible some may say, what needs a Relation of a place of so long standing as New York hath been? In answer to which I have said something before, as to satisfie the desires of many that never had any relation of it. Secondly, though it hath been

long settled, yet but lately reduced to his Majesties obedience, and by that means but new or unknown to the English; Else certainly those great number of Furs, that have been lately transported from thence into Holland had never past the hands of our English Furriers: Thirdly, never any Relation before was published to my knowledge, and the place being capable of entertaining so great a number of inhabitants, where they may with God's blessing, and their own industry, live as happily as any people in the world. A true Relation was necessary, not only for the encouragement of many that have a desire to remove themselves, but for the satisfaction of others that would make a trade thither.

### FINIS.

The Accurate Accomptant or London-Merchant, Containing an Analysis for Instructions and Directions for a Methodical keeping Merchants Accompts, By way of Debiter and Creditor, very useful for all Merchants or others, that desire to learn or teach the Exact Method of keeping Merchants Accompts, by Thomas Brown Accomptant; To be sold by John Hancock, at the first shop in Popes-Head-Alley, at the sign of the Three Bibles in Cornhil, 1670.





















